

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial

Lincoln Boyhood NM Becomes Indiana's First National Park



President John F. Kennedy signing the legislation creating Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial

By the late 1950's, there was talk of transferring the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Memorial Park from the state to the federal government and making a national park of it. Senator Vance Hartke, of Evansville, and Congressman Winfield K. Denton introduced legislation proposing the establishment of an NPS unit at Lincoln City. When the state endorsed the proposal and offered to donate 200 acres containing the cabin site, the gravesite, and the memorial building, the legislation passed easily. President John F. Kennedy signed the act authorizing the establishment of Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial on February 19, 1962. In a ceremony in front of the memorial building, the transfer was formally made and Indiana's first authorized unit of the National Park System was dedicated.